

What is claimed is:

1. A method of processing data in a data processing system comprising a plurality of electrical devices, wherein data is transmitted over a common data bus, the electrical devices being connected to the common data bus by means of associated adapters, the method comprising:

identifying plural devices from the plurality of electrical devices required for performing a requested data processing, said identified devices constituting a segment of the plurality of electrical devices;

assigning a segment identifier to the identified devices constituting said segment; and

configuring the adapters of those electrical devices that have been assigned said segment identifier in that each device of said segmented devices is able to filter out data that is destined to said respective device from the common data bus.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the identified plural devices are comprised within a single standalone data processing device.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the electrical devices constitutes a data processing management unit that controls said segmentation.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the data processing management unit comprises a display unit and wherein identifying the plural devices comprises:

providing a graphical user interface on the display unit, the graphical user interface representing a data processing management layer adapted to perform segmentation; and

displaying a plurality of indications within the graphical user interface, each indication representing a user-selectable data processing;

wherein the data processing management unit, in response to a user indicating the requested data processing, automatically identifies the necessary devices for the requested data processing.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the data processing management unit assigns the segment identifier and configures the adapters.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the data processing management unit comprises a display unit and wherein identifying the plural devices comprises:

providing a graphical user interface on the display unit, the graphical user interface representing a data processing management layer adapted to perform segmentation; and

displaying a user-selectable indicator for each device of the plurality of electrical devices within the graphical user interface;

wherein, in response to a user selecting an indicator, the device corresponding to the selected indicator is identified.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the data processing management unit assigns the segment identifier and configures the adapters.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the segment identifier is a unique identifier.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the data processing system automatically identifies the plural devices required in response to a user indicating the requested data processing.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying plural devices from the plurality of electrical devices comprises determining unique identifiers attributed to the adapters of the identified devices; and

wherein assigning the segment identifier comprises:

- broadcasting an allocation request over the common data bus, the allocation request comprising at least the segment identifier and the determined unique identifiers,
- receiving the allocation request in the adapters having an identifier corresponding to one of said determined unique identifiers and determining whether the identified devices are segmented or not, and
- for each un-segmented identified device, indicating that said device may be assigned the segment identifier.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein assigning the segment identifier further comprises:

if one of the identified devices is already segmented, indicating that the identified devices may not be assigned the segment identifier;

releasing the identified devices; and

repeating the identifying of plural devices from the plurality of electrical devices required for performing the requested data processing.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the determined unique identifiers represent serial numbers attributed to the adapters of the identified devices.

13. A method of processing data in a printing system comprising a first plurality of printing devices and a second plurality of print-related devices, wherein data is transmitted over a common print line bus, the printing devices and print-related devices being connected to the common print line bus by means of associated print line bus adapters to constitute a printshop environment, the method comprising:

identifying plural devices from the first plurality of printing devices and the second plurality of print-related devices required for performing a requested print processing, said identified devices constituting a print line segment of the first and second plurality of devices;

assigning a segment identifier to the identified devices constituting said print line segment; and

configuring the print line bus adapters of those devices that have been assigned said segment identifier in that each device of said segmented devices is able to filter out data that is destined to said respective device from the common print line bus.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the first plurality of printing devices comprises a standalone printing device and/or a continuous feed printer.
15. The method of claim 13, wherein the second plurality of print-related devices comprises a roll unwinder, a rewinder, a burster, a trimmer, a stacker, a cutter, an inserter and/or a label sticker.
16. The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of the devices of said first plurality of printing devices constitutes a print line management unit that controls said segmentation.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the print line management unit comprises a display unit and wherein identifying the plural devices comprises:
 - providing a graphical user interface on the display unit, the graphical user interface representing a print line management layer adapted to perform segmentation; and
 - displaying a plurality of indications within the graphical user interface, each indication representing a user-selectable print processing;

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wherein the print line management unit, in response to a user indicating the requested print processing, automatically identifies the necessary devices for the requested print processing.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the print line management unit assigns the segment identifier and configures the adapters.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the print line management unit comprises a display unit and identifying the plural devices comprises:

providing a graphical user interface on the display unit, the graphical user interface representing a print line management layer adapted to perform segmentation; and

displaying a user-selectable indicator for each device of the first and second plurality of devices within the graphical user interface;

wherein identifying plural devices comprises, in response to a user selecting an indicator, identifying the device corresponding to the selected indicator.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the print line management unit assigns the segment identifier and configures the adapters.

21. The method of claim 13, wherein the segment identifier is a unique identifier.

22. The method of claim 13, wherein the printing system automatically identifies the plural devices required in response to a user indicating the requested print processing.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein identifying plural devices from the first and second plurality of devices comprises determining unique identifiers attributed to the print line bus adapters of the identified devices; and

wherein assigning the segment identifier comprises:

- broadcasting an allocation request over the common print line bus, the allocation request comprising at least the segment identifier and the determined unique identifiers,
- receiving the allocation request in the print line bus adapters, having an identifier corresponding to one of said determined unique identifiers and determining whether the identified devices are segmented or not, and
- for each un-segmented identified device, indicating that said device may be assigned the segment identifier.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein assigning the segment identifier further comprises:

if one of the identified devices is already segmented, indicating that the identified devices may not be assigned the segment identifier;

releasing the identified devices; and

repeating the identifying of plural devices from the first and second plurality of devices required for performing the requested print processing.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the determined unique identifiers represent serial numbers attributed to the adapters of the identified devices.

26. A print line comprising a first plurality of printing devices and a second plurality of print-related devices, wherein data is transmitted over a common print line bus, the printing devices and print-related devices being connected to the common print line bus by means of associated print line bus adapters to constitute a printshop environment, and a print line management unit for establishing segments of the print line, the print line management unit comprising:

identifying means for identifying plural devices from the first plurality of printing devices and the second plurality of print-related devices required for performing a requested print processing, said identified devices constituting a print line segment of the first and second plurality of devices;

assigning means for assigning a segment identifier to the identified devices constituting said print line segment; and

configuring means for configuring the print line bus adapters of those devices that have been assigned said segment identifier in that each device of said segmented devices is able to filter out data that is destined to said respective device from the common print line bus.

27. The print line of claim 26, wherein the first plurality of printing devices comprises a standalone printing device and/or a continuous feed printer.
28. The print line of claim 26, wherein the second plurality of print-related devices comprises a roll unwinder, a rewinder, a burster, a trimmer, a stacker, a cutter, an inserter and/or a label sticker.
29. The print line of claim 26, wherein the print line management unit further comprises a display unit for providing a graphical user interface, said graphical user interface comprising a plurality of indications within the graphical user interface, each indication representing a user-selectable print processing.
30. The print line of claim 29, wherein the display unit comprises a touchscreen.
31. The print line of claim 26, wherein the print line management unit further comprises a display unit for providing a graphical user interface, said graphical user interface comprising a user-selectable indicator for each device of said first and second plurality of devices.
32. The print line of claim 31, wherein the display unit comprises a touchscreen.

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33. A method comprising:

identifying plural devices from a plurality of electrical devices required for performing a requested data processing, said identified devices constituting a segment of the plurality of electrical devices;

assigning a segment identifier to the identified devices constituting said segment; and

configuring adapters associated with those electrical devices that have been assigned said segment identifier in that each device of said segmented devices is able to filter out data that is destined to said respective device from a common data bus.